## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 30, 2001 LB 827

bill, lease dark fiber. So the Enhancement Fund is treated as a necessary kind of receptacle for receiving these funds that may be there. But the fact of the matter is High Speed Internet Enhancement Fund and the whole subject of high speed Internet is separate and apart from and a huge, huge topic that shouldn't, in my opinion, be a part of this bill. In other words, I think the Transportation Committee should come to us next year with a flushed-out proposal as to how we're going to do high speed Internet telecommunication services in Nebraska, primarily in rural areas. We're kind of approaching this backwards. saying we have this little, puny bit of money here maybe, and we need some place to put it, so let's create this thing called an Enhancement Fund. But really, this Enhancement Fund is a huge topic, and so we're...we're kind of pretending, in a way, that this is not a huge topic by making it just a little part of this bill, almost an accident, almost a minor amendment to this bill, but that's not the case. This is maybe the most important thing about this bill. Senator Bromm, let me begin, if I may, by getting the facts as straight as I...as I can this morning. Could I engage you in somewhat of a dialog?

SENATOR BROMM: Okay.

SENATOR BEUTLER: First of all, ...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...I want to go back a little bit and talk about the Universal Service Fund just a little bit so that we have an understanding of what came before, so we have a better understanding, or so I have a better understanding of how what is proposed here relates to what came before. Could you just describe for us in general terms what the Universal Service Fund is, where the money comes from, what it goes for, about how much money is in it, and the general purpose...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...purposes of it.

SENATOR BROWN: Sure. The general ... general background of the